



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

VINCENT J. BOLLON
General Secretary-Treasurer

May 3, 2004

Honorable Ed Markey
2108 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Markey:

On behalf of the nation's more than 265,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical personnel, I am pleased to offer our endorsement of H.R. 4155, the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004. I also wish to thank and commend you and Rep. King for undertaking this important cause.

More than 900 deaths and 2,400 injuries are linked to cigarette-ignited fires each year. To the men and women of the IAFF, who protect 80% of our nation's population, these are not mere statistics, but human tragedies we face each day. Setting ignition standards through enactment of the Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004 is sure to make an impact on these unnecessary and tragic cases.

Thanks for your advocacy and relentless hard work on this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you to halt fires and ensure public safety.

Sincerely,

Harold A. Schaitberger
General President